

REUTER

1 Nov. 1981

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7BC-SPY

LONDON, Nov 1; REUTER -- A FORMER OFFICER IN BRITISH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE TODAY CONFESSED HE WAS PART OF A BRITISH SPY RING WHICH PASSED INFORMATION TO THE SOVIET UNION DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

LEO LONG, NOW A RETIRED FILM COMPANY EXECUTIVE, TOLD THE SUNDAY TIMES NEWSPAPER HE WAS PART OF THE NETWORK RUN BY ANTHONY BLUNT, A FORMER ART ADVISER TO QUEEN ELIZABETH WHO STRIPPED HIM OF HIS KNIGHTHOOD WHEN HE WAS EXPOSED TWO YEARS AGO.

MR LONG SAID HE CONFESSED TO BRITISH INTELLIGENCE IN 1964, AT THE SAME TIME AS BLUNT, AND LIKE HIM, WAS NEVER PROSECUTED FOR OFFENSES WHICH HE ADMITS WERE "TOTALLY TREASONABLE."

MR LONG'S STATEMENT IS LIKELY TO OUTRAGE BRITONS AND CAUSE A STORM IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH WAS TOLD LAST YEAR THAT BLUNT WAS THE ONLY SPY GIVEN IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION SINCE WORLD WAR TWO.

THE SCANDAL SHOOK THE BRITISH ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME OF THE EXTENT OF WARTIME SOVIET ESPIONAGE IN BRITAIN CARRIED OUT BY THE SPY RING FORMED BY BLUNT, GUY BURGESS, DONALD MACLEAN AND KIM PHILBY.†

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MR LONG SAID TODAY SOME MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST CELLS AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, WHERE ALL FIVE SPIES WERE RECRUITED IN THE 1930'S, COULD BE IN HIGH POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY NOW. BUT HE REFUSED TO NAME THEM.

MR LONG'S CONFESSION RAISED AFRESH THE SPECTER OF UNDISCOVERED SPIES STILL WORKING WITHIN BRITAIN'S SECURITY SERVICES WHICH HAS HAUNTED THE BRITISH PUBLIC SINCE THE 1950'S WHEN BURGESS AND MACLEAN DEFECTED TO MOSCOW.

MR LONG SAID HIS WARTIME WORK WAS WITH MI14, A SECTION OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DEALING WITH GERMAN TROOP OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM AGENTS IN EUROPE.

AT THE TIME BRITAIN WAS PASSING SELECTED INFORMATION TO THE RUSSIANS GLEANED FROM INTERCEPTED GERMAN RADIO TRAFFIC.

BUT BLUNT'S SPY RING WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE RUSSIANS MUCH FULLER INFORMATION AND SOME IDEA OF HOW FRANK THE WESTERN ALLIES WERE BEING WITH THEM.1

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MR LONG SAYS HE IS WILLING TO TESTIFY TO A SECURITY COMMISSION WHICH, AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S REQUEST, IS INVESTIGATING BRITISH INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS AFTER REPEATED PRESS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT UNDISCOVERED SPIES.

"I FEEL DEEP REMORSE FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE," SAID MR LONG. "I GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE WHOLE THING. I HAVE BITTERLY REGRETTED IT ALL MY LIFE."1

REUTER 0739 WM

2 of 2